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Hopper (R)

A C C O U N T

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OF A LATE

U S T I C A T I O N

F R O M

P E T E R H O U S E,

I N T H E

N I V E R S I T Y o f C A M B R I D G E,

L O N D O N;

Printed in the Year MDCCLXXVI.

MAJOR GENERAL

OF THE

ARTILLERY

OF THE



OF THE

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

LONDON

Printed in the University Press

TO THE
P U B L I C.

NEXT to the testimony of a man's own conscience, the approbation of his Friends ought to be the principal object of his pursuits. To the attainment of this every part of his conduct should tend; every action of his life be directed: and this, as it is certainly the most animating incentive to virtue, becomes as certainly the great reward of its own production. In most cases no greater can either be desired, or obtained: and a man convinced of the uprightness of his own intentions, and approved of by those, whose integrity he reveres, and whose opinions he thinks the height of perverseness to reject, such a man, I am persuaded, however frustrated in his designs, or disappointed in his fondest hopes, will sit down

contented with his lot, and chearfully enjoy that unclouded happiness which can be the result only of conscious innocence. But there are situations in which to remain tamely inactive would not only be improper, but criminal. Man is a member of society : and considered in that view, every, the lowest, individual is of some importance to the public : The welfare of the whole in some degree depends upon the rectitude of his conduct : He is accountable to the public for his actions ; to the public therefore he has an undoubted right to appeal. And his character, that only truly valuable blessing of human life, must be established or destroyed, by the public approbation or censure. An honest man will not only be virtuous, he will be more ; he will be unsuspected. When therefore he is attacked in this tenderest point, every private consolation must appear insufficient, and the applause of his best friends unsatisfactory. The testimony itself of his own heart will then want the sanction of the public voice to render it perfectly complete.

It is from this desire of vindicating to myself an honest fame, the right to which I am conscious

that never forfeited, that I now appeal to the solemn
 tribunal of the public. I have been aspersed by
 the blackest calumnies which falsehood could sug-
 gest, or malevolence propagate—I have been
 brought to a mock trial, and that too by a So-
 ciety, the very nature of whose institution is ren-
 dered respectable by custom, and whose proceed-
 ings the bulk of mankind have long been taught
 to look upon as founded in humanity and justice
 —And in the end I have undergone a sentence,
 which is ever supposed to argue the highest degree
 of criminality in the person on whom it is pro-
 nounced.—In this situation, submission would be
 meanness; silence, infamy. Yet this desire of self-
 vindication, just as it may appear, is not the only,
 nor perhaps I might add the strongest, motive for
 the following publication. To expose injustice
 wherever found, to tear the mask from tyranny
 however sanctified by age, or protected by an ele-
 vated rank in life, is a duty which every man
 owes to himself, to his friends, and to the public.

Upon these principles I proceed; and to the li-
 beral and dispassionate part of mankind I cheer-

fully submit my case ; to those men whose minds are unwarped by the little considerations of self-interest, or the narrow prejudices of a confined education ; fully persuaded that to such men my conduct cannot appear criminal, nor, I flatter myself, in any degree reprehensible.

ROBERT HOPPER

Jan. 20, 1776.
Trumpington-Street, Cambridge.

S T A T E of the F A C T S.

IN the night of Thursday the fourth of January, 1776, a riot was made at the rooms of Mr. Christian (a near relation to the Bishop of Carlisle) of Peterhouse. On Friday morning Mr. Christian acquainted the Bishop of Carlisle, Master, and the Rev. Mr. Baldwin, one of the Fellows of Peterhouse, with the whole affair. In consequence of this information a meeting of the Master and Fellows of Peterhouse was held on Saturday morning the 6th, when it was resolved that those Gentlemen, or as many of them as might be discovered, who were concerned in this riot, should be convened before the Master and Fellows to answer for their conduct: and accordingly Messrs. Stovin, Blucke, Hardinge, Conable, and Hopper jun. were ordered to attend in the Combination room immediately after prayers on the same evening. During the interval between the time when the riot was made at Mr. Christian's rooms and Saturday evening (the time appointed for the five accused Gentlemen to appear before the Master and Fellows) I had been informed from
good

good authority that the Bishop of Carlisle had declared, that He had discovered six of the Persons concerned in the riot at Mr. Christian's rooms : and that Mr. Baldwin had said that I, as well as Hopper jun. was in the riot; to corroborate which circumstance Mr. Baldwin had asserted that Mr. Longmire, Senior Tutor of Peterhouse, had told him that He (Mr. Longmire) heard and could distinguish the voices of the two Mr. Hoppers, as They left Mr. Blucke's rooms about two o'clock on Friday morning; and that *He knew Mr. Hopper senior's voice in particular.* This report soon spread itself over the College; and the circumstance of my not being convened appeared mysterious to every one. Anxious for my own character, and unwilling to bear a load of private aspersions, from which I could afterwards have no opportunity of exonerating myself—fearing too that this circumstance might give rise to suspicions, in the minds of my friends, of a nature the most dishonourable to my name; and that they might have some apparent reason to conclude, that in order to save myself the trouble of a public trial I had basely revealed those secrets which their friendship had intrusted me with—I resolved to rescue myself from this impending and otherwise unavoidable disgrace by the following expedient. I attended the five accused Gentlemen at the time appointed for their appearance, into the Combination room; and immediately on my enter-

ing the room, in the presence of the Bishop of Carlisle, Master, the Rev. Mr. Longmire, Mr. Pemberton, Mr. Dawes, and the Rev. Mr. Baldwin, Fellows of Peterhouse, I humbly requested the favour of the Bishop of Carlisle that I might be permitted to speak a few words, before his Lordship and the Fellows proceeded in the affair of the five accused gentlemen. This request was immediately granted. I then acquainted the meeting with the report of my being concerned in the riot, and begged that Mr. Longmire and Mr. Baldwin, if they had any foundation for their assertions, would urge the charge openly against me; and that I might accordingly stand the issue of a publick trial: and on the contrary, if no such foundation existed, I hoped they would do me the justice to declare me innocent before the Master and Fellows, as also before my friends who were then present. Mr. Longmire said, that what He had told Mr. Baldwin was only, that He heard a voice which he believed to be Mr. Hopper's, but that He did not pretend to assert which of the Mr. Hopper's voice it was, there being a great similarity in the manner of speaking of the two brothers. Mr. Baldwin, after many fruitless attempts to equivocate, acknowledged that He had said, that He *believed* that the two Mr. Hoppers were concerned in the riot. He added, that no proofs appearing against Mr. Hopper sen. the Master and Fellows looked upon him as innocent.

Mr.

Mr. Pemberton said, that He never had heard Mr. Hopper senior's name mentioned in the affair.

I should now certainly have withdrawn myself from the meeting, had not Mr. Baldwin cried out " Although, Mr. Hopper, you were deemed innocent with regard to the riot, yet I should have desired his Lordship to have sent for you immediately, on account of your insolent behaviour in the hall to day." He then charged me with being at the head of a *Conspiracy** to send Mr. Christian to *Coventry*;† and with cutting off Mr. Christian's commons, and sending them to him separate. He added, that there was a *general hiss* when Mr. Christian left the hall, but that He did not perceive that I hissed. In answer to this charge I acknowledged that I had given my vote that Mr. Christian should be *sent to Coventry*; and that as I was that day President of the Pensioners table, I had, in consequence of the unanimous resolution of that table, cut off Mr. Christian's commons. The five accused Gentlemen, together with myself, were now desired to retire into the Hall till the Master and Fellows should come to some final resolution in the affair. In about ten minutes a message was sent

* Verbatim from Mr. Baldwin. † To *send a man to Coventry* is a species of punishment to which a private society has recourse only in the last extremities. This punishment therefore, especially when voted unanimously, must always be a certain proof of the obstinate incorrigibility of the person thus by common consent driven out of society.

ent to Messrs. Stovin, Blucke, Hardinge, Constable, and Hopper jun. desiring their attendance in the Combination room. They were in a short time dismissed; and I was ordered again to attend. The Bishop of Carlisle now enlarged much upon the impropriety there was in *sending a Man to Coventry*. His Lordship also said, that He was surprized that I should come into the combination room under a pretence of vindicating my character, for, added his Lordship, "Your character is already infamous.*" This assertion He eagerly endeavoured to support by saying, that I had been author of an *infamous letter or paper to send a Man to Coventry*. His Lordship then proceeded to give me what He called a publick admonition, which consisted merely of a repetition of his own confused observations on the *Coventry law*. His Lordship concluded with saying, that if I did not make a proper submission before Monday, I might expect very severe consequences. Mr. Baldwin added many unmeaning sneers, many witless jokes, to the admonition which I received from the Bishop of Carlisle; and the word *insolence* seemed to be Mr. Baldwin's favourite hobby-horse for that evening's amusement.

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* I do not give this merely as the substance of what the Bishop of Carlisle said, but as the very terms in which his Lordship expressed himself.

I immediately communicated my sentence to the table of Pensioners, desiring their assistance and advice in this critical situation. They unanimously (Mr. Stovin excepted§) came to a resolution that a Latin exercise should be made, of which each Pensioner, myself included, should write, and sign with his own name, two copies; and that each set of these exercises should be enclosed in a letter (one set to be sent to the Master, and the other to the Fellows) signed by all the Pensioners, (Mr. Stovin again excepted) and containing a declaration—that the President was only the agent of the table—that what he had done was by the command of the whole body of Pensioners—that they looked upon themselves as responsible for his conduct, which was not deemed culpable by the Master and Fellows; and that therefore they submitted to the punishment inflicted on him as their representative. These two letters, with the exercises† enclosed, were accordingly on Sunday the 7th sent up to the Master and Fellows respectively. The Bishop of Carlisle,

§ Mr. Stovin did not assign any reason for his apostasy. It is however to be observed, that there are a greater number of fellowships vacant at Peterhouse, than the Bishop of Carlisle can at present fill up with his own relations.

† I should have given my reader a copy of these letters and exercises, had I been in possession of one. On Tuesday the 11th I sent a card to the Bishop of Carlisle requesting the favour of his Lordship to return the copies of this letter and exercise, and also of the vote of the Pensioner's table, relating to Mr. Christy, which I had delivered to his Lordship.---The Bishop of Carlisle returned no answer to my request.

stead of accepting these exercises as a proper submission from me, considered them as an insult offered to his authority; and in consequence of this new offence appointed a meeting of the Master and Fellows to be held on Monday morning. Many of the Fellows also were much surprized at the purport of this letter, "because" they said "I was not punished for what I had done in the hall, but for *coming into the combination room unsent for.*" Others of the Fellows saw the affair in a very different point of view, and declared that *my behaviour in the hall* was the crime for which I was censured. All had complimented the Bishop of Carlisle with their votes for my punishment; but their ideas of my guilt remained various and unsettled.

On Monday morning at ten o'clock the Master and Fellows again met; and in about half an hour was ordered to attend in the combination room. As soon as I entered the room Mr. Longmire told me, that as I did not seem thoroughly to understand the nature of the offence for which I had been ordered to make proper submission, the Master and Fellows had desired him to inform me, that the crimes for which I had been censured were, 1st. *my behaviour in the hall in cutting off Mr. Christian's com-*

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mons;

There were now present, the Bishop of Carlisle, the Rev. Mr. Longmire, Mr. Pemberton, Mr. Dawes, the Rev. Mr. Borlase, the Rev. Mr. Baldwin.

mons : 2dly, *my coming into the combination room unfor-*
for, and *my disrespectful behaviour there towards the*
Master and Fellows. Mr. Longmire added, that the
 Master and Fellows would allow me till six o'clock
 in the evening to determine whether I would make
 the submission required. I now attempted to speak
 but was instantly hindered by the united voices of
 almost every Fellow, who cried out that I was only
 to declare my acceptance or refusal of the time
 offered to me. Convinced that the Bishop of Car-
 lisle and the Fellows were determined neither to
 hear truth, nor to do justice, I answered, that as I
 was not allowed to make any defence, I should give
 his Lordship and the Fellows no further trouble, by
 declaring, that I would not submit to any other pun-
 ishment whatsoever. I then went to my own room.
 In a short time Mr. Borlase sent for me, and ac-
 quainted me, that the Master and Fellows had passed
 their final sentence on my conduct. I desired that
 I might be permitted to take a copy of my sentence.
 this request Mr. Borlase very politely granted.

C O P Y.

AT a meeting of the Master and Fellows held
 on January 8th, 1776, Ordered—That Hopper sent
 for disorderly behaviour in the Hall, and for disre-
 spectful behaviour towards the Master and Fellows

and Refusal to make submission required for that disrespect, be rusticated till proper and satisfactory submission shall be made by him; and that he leave College on or before Wednesday morning the 10th instant.

EDM. CARLISLE
D. LONGMIRE
A. PEMBERTON
FRA. DAWES
GEO. BORLASE
N. RIGBYE BALDWIN.

O B S E R

O B S E R V A T I O N S.

IT appears, as well from the declaration of Mr. Baldwin, my Accuser, as from the sentence of rustication itself, that in the judgment of the Master and Fellows I was deemed guiltless of the riot. What then was my offence? The gentlemen themselves were not able to answer that question consistently, even after they had passed their first sentence upon me. Indeed the Bishop of Carlisle seemed to have some weighty accusation labouring in his mind when he told me, that *my Character was already infamous*. But what must be the indignation of every honest man, how great his abhorrence of specious sanctity, when he hears this good old man, this Christian Bishop, supporting so heavy a charge by saying, that *I had been author of an infamous letter or paper to send a man to Coventry!*—Search, my Lord, the records of persecution, You may perhaps there, and there only, find a precedent for your illiberal insults, in the conduct of a Gardiner, or a Bonner.—The Bishop of Carlisle was determined that no obstacles should stop the career of his pious vengeance; and the Fellows willing to compliment his

Lordship,

Lordship, even at the expence of their own integrity, met again on Monday morning: when each man contributing that circumstance which appeared to himself to bear nearest resemblance to a fault, They out of this confused mass produced an accusation consisting of two charges, which I have already laid before my Reader.

I confess that I was now at a loss to whose ingenuity I should attribute this curious production, as it at first appeared to me to be an entire new method of proceeding. In this opinion I was deceived; for I found that the parliament of Toulouse was the great original which they had in this case chosen to imitate; where quarters and eighths of proofs are admitted; and it is not uncommon for a man to be condemned to the wheel upon eight hearsays, any one of which, taken separately, would scarcely be a sufficient foundation for an admonition from his Confessor.

No one can be surprized, that without being allowed to speak one word in my own defence I was immediately declared guilty of these new-fangled crimes. It had long before been determined that I should fall a victim to the rage of an offended Prelate; and contrary to the usual custom in such cases, my crime was the last particular which my righteous judges thought necessary to be ascertained.

Having

Having now pointed out some inconsistencies in the proceedings previous to my final condemnation I shall leave my Reader to his own reflections, and proceed to examine the sentence itself, and the crime therein alledged against me. And here I shall be leave to observe, that the very general terms, in which this sentence is couched, strongly controvert the validity of the accusation on which it is founded. *Disorderly behaviour in the hall* can have no determinate meaning; and *disrespectful behaviour towards the Master and Fellows* are terms equally vague and uncertain.—Ambiguity has ever been the nursing mother of Despotism.—I shall not, however, avail myself of this circumstance; I shall take, for an explanation of the sentence, the charges objected to me by Mr. Longmire by order, and in the presence of the Master and Fellows. These were 1st. *My behaviour in the hall in cutting off Mr. Christian's commons.* 2dly, *My coming into the combination room unsent for, and my disrespectful behaviour there towards the Master and Fellows.*

Here then we find two facts particularly specified viz. *cutting off Mr. Christian's commons, and coming into the combination room unsent for.* In answer to the first charge I shall only say, that what I did in hall was in consequence of the unanimous resolution of the Pensioners table, of which I was that day President.

dent : that it always has been the custom of that
 able to proceed in this manner against its ob-
 noxious members : and perhaps, I might add, that
 is the first time that a man ever was adjudged
 criminal by a Master and Fellows of a College for
 putting in execution a bye law, which neither did,
 or could interfere with their authority. For this
 sentence (if indeed the fact can, even by the construc-
 tion of a College-statute, be perverted to that mean-
 ing) I and the whole table submitted to a punishment,
 the consequence of which I have already mentioned.
 I must here, in justice to the *impartiality* of the Master
 and Fellows, remark, that Mr. Christian's commons
 were afterwards on two several days cut off in the
 same manner by the President,* who, however, was
 never called upon by the Master and Fellows to
 answer for *his disorderly behaviour*. His Lordship's
 vengeance was in some degree satiated; and the
 fellows, perceiving that for this offence they might
 successively rusticate each individual in the character
 of President, were at length compelled by motives
 of interest to abstain from that oppressive injustice,
 which Reason and Christianity ought before to have
 taught them was incompatible with every idea of
 moral and religious obligation.

The second charge is still more palpably absurd
 than the first. It is indeed true that *I went into the*

D

Com-

* Mr. Pearne.

Combination room unsent for : but it is as true that upon my first entrance, I desired his Lordship's permission to speak a few words : it is true also that this permission was immediately granted. When then shall we look for my fault? If *my coming into the Combination room unsent for* was improper, why did his Lordship give a sanction to that impropriety by permitting me to speak? Why was not that step immediately censured? And why was not I ordered instantly to leave an assembly, into which I had disrespectfully and irreverently intruded myself. In evasion to these questions it may perhaps be said that my crime was not merely *coming into the Combination room unsent for*, but that the *behaviour* which I shewed there *towards the Master and Fellows* was justly deemed highly *disrespectful*. In what did this disrespect consist? Was it disrespectful to convince my friends that I was innocent; and to detect the falsehoods with which my Character had been assailed by Mr. Baldwin? Or was it disrespectful not to be able to hear unmoved, and without one murmur, the illiberal and unjust abuse of the Bishop of Carlisle? If there is any man who will answer these questions in the affirmative, I freely confess, that towards such a man I wish ever to remain in a state of the most perfect disrespect. In short, my offence fairly and impartially considered, seems to amount to no more than this, *That I was President of a table which sent a relation of the Bishop of Carlisle to Coventry*

For this offence, trifling as it appears, I have been sent from College, at a time when a very few months would have completed my academical education; and thus am I reduced to this hard alternative, either, by a mean submission, to render myself contemptible in my own eyes, and dishonoured in the opinion of my friends; or at once to relinquish every pleasing hope, which I had entertained, of shortly enjoying the long-wished-for reward of above three years residence in the University.

The Reader of the foregoing account will easily perceive that the Bishop of Carlisle and the Rev. Mr. Baldwin were the principal actors in this scene of persecution. It has been observed, that Ecclesiasticks have ever been emulous of royal dignity. And indeed one would be apt to imagine from the unrelenting severity of the Bishop of Carlisle, that his Lordship considered it as a species of treason to *conspire* against a person so nearly related to the ruling family of Peterhouse. For Mr. Baldwin's conduct I can account no otherwise than by observing, that it seems to be the nature of depravity to hate those whom it has injured. Mr. Baldwin, baffled in his first attempts on my character, soon stood forth my avowed and implacable enemy.—Let him go on; let him fill up the measure of his maliciousness: I will meet his utmost fury without a fear; and however degraded I may appear, in the eyes

eyes of some men, by the censures of a Master and Fellows of Peterhouse, to Mr. Baldwin I will truly say,

*Non adeo cecidi, quamvis dejectus, ut infra
Te quoque sim: inferius quo nihil esse potest.*

To my Readers, who were before acquainted with the Bishop of Carlisle and Mr. Baldwin, their conduct in this affair will not, perhaps, appear extraordinary. But that Mr. Borlase—who was not present at my original accusation, and whose information must have been obtained in an extrajudicial manner; in whose mind therefore my innocence and guilt ought to have remained equally suspended;—that he, I say, gave his assent to my condemnation, is a circumstance which must alarm every friend of judicial liberty. As I have always entertained the highest opinion of Mr. Borlase's honour and integrity, I would willingly persuade myself that he, in this instance, deceived by the many falsehoods then circulated, unwarily suffered himself to be hurried away by a false notion of obligations which he supposed himself under, to support the family and interests of the Ruler of his College; and that in this state of blind infatuation, his hand signed a sentence, of which, in the cooler moments of reflection, his heart will thoroughly disapprove. The other three Gentlemen† have not thought proper

† Mr. Longmire, Mr. Pemberton, and Mr. Dawes.

to assign any reasons for their conduct: and therefore, as I do not wish to hazard a conjecture on this subject, I shall leave them to the silent condemnation or acquittal of their own hearts.

F I N I S.

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...and these
...as I do not wish
...of I shall have
...or a quantity of their own...

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